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Requests received after that time will be returned to the requester with a statement that the request was untimely received and that copies of any nonexempt portions of the transcript or minutes for the meeting in question will ordinarily be available in the office of the Secretary 10 working days after the meeting.

(2)(i) Any person whose interests may be directly affected may request in writing that the Commission close to public observation discussion of a matter which it has earlier decided to open as provided for in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

- (ii) Such requests shall be captioned "Request to Close _____ (date) Commission meeting on item (number or description)," shall state the reason(s) therefor, the name and address of the person making the request and, if desired, a telephone number
- (iii) Ten copies of such requests should be filed with the office of the Secretary as soon as possible after the issuance of the notice of meeting to which the request pertains. However, a single copy of the request will be accepted. Requests to close meetings must be received by the office of the Secretary no later than the time scheduled for the meeting to which such a request pertains.
- (3) The Secretary shall retain one copy of timely requests and forward one copy to each Commissioner, one copy to the interested Office, and two copies to the Docket Section, one for entry in the appropriate docket file, if any, and one to be posted on the Public Notice Board located in that section as an attachment to the Notice of Meeting to which it pertains.
- (4) Pleadings replying to requests to open or close shall not be accepted.
- (5) Any Commissioner may require that the Commission vote upon the request to open or close. If the request is supported by the votes of a majority of the agency membership, notice of change in meeting shall be issued and the Secretary shall immediately notify the requester and, before the close of business the next working day, have posted such vote and other material required by paragraphs (d) and (e) of this

section on the Commission's Public Notice Board.

(6) If no Commissioner requests that a vote be taken on a request to open or close a Commission meeting, the Secretary shall by the close of the next working day after the meeting to which such request pertains certify that no vote was taken. The Secretary shall forward one copy of that certification to the requester and two copies of that certification to the Docket Section, one to be placed in the appropriate docket file, if any, and one to be posted on the Public Notice Board, where it will be displayed for one week.

[42 FR 13290, Mar. 10, 1977, as amended at 42 FR 25729, May 19, 1977; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 62 FR 45530, Aug. 28, 1997; 65 FR 6544, Feb. 10, 2000]

Subparts B-C [Reserved]

Subpart D—Rules Applicable to Requests for Changes in the Nature of Postal Services

§ 3001.71 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart govern the procedure with regard to proposals of the Postal Service pursuant to section 3661 of the Act requesting from the Commission an advisory opinion on changes in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis. The Rules of General Applicability in subpart A of this part are also applicable to proceedings on requests subject to this subpart.

$\S 3001.72$ Filing of formal requests.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission issue an advisory opinion on a proposed change in the nature of postal services subject to this subpart, the Postal Service shall file with the Commission a formal request for such an opinion in accordance with the requirements of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.11 and 3001.74. Such request shall be filed not less than 90 days in advance of the date on which the Postal Service proposes to make effective the change in the nature of postal services involved. Within 5 days

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after the Postal Service has filed a formal request for a recommended decision in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall lodge a notice thereof with the Director of the Federal Register for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[38 FR 4330, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.73 Filing of prepared direct testimony.

Simultaneously with the filing of a formal request for an advisory opinion under this subpart, the Postal Service shall file all of the prepared direct evidence upon which it proposes to rely in the proceeding on the record before the Commission to establish that the proposed change in the nature of postal services is in accordance with and conforms to the policies of the Act. Such prepared direct evidence shall be in the form of prepared written testimony and documentary exhibits which shall be filed in accordance with §3001.31.

§ 3001.74 Contents of formal requests.

(a) General requirements. Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and basis as are necessary and appropriate to fully inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance and impact of the proposed change in the nature of postal services and to show that such change in the nature of postal service is in accordance with and conforms to the policies established under the Act. Detailed data and information and statements of reasons or basis set forth in the Postal Service's prepared direct evidence may be relied upon for purposes of the formal request without restatement therein by reference in the request to the portions of the prepared direct evidence relied upon.

- (b) Specific information. Subject to the right of the Commission to request additional information, each formal request shall include the following:
- (1) A detailed statement of the present nature of the postal services proposed to be changed and the change proposed;

- (2) The proposed effective date for the proposed change in the nature of postal services;
- (3) A full and complete statement of the reasons and basis for the Postal Service's determination that the proposed change in the nature of postal services is in accordance with and conforms to the policies of the Act.

§ 3001.75 Service by the Postal Service.

Immediately after the issuance of an order or orders by the Commission designating an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in a proceeding before the Commission under this subpart, the Postal Service shall serve copies of its formal request for an advisory opinion and its prepared direct evidence upon such officer and the intervenors as provided by §3001.12. Service shall also be made on persons who are limited participators.

[38 FR 3511, Feb. 7, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

Subparts E-L [Reserved]

PART 3002—ORGANIZATION

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3002.1 Purpose.

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3002.14 Office of the Consumer Advocate.

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3002.16 Office of Inspector General. [Reserved]

APPENDIX A TO PART 3002—POSTAL RATE COMMISSION, MISSION STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 503; 5 U.S.C. 552.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes for Part 3002 appear at 70 FR 48277, Aug. 17, 2005.

§ 3002.1 Purpose.

This part is published in compliance with $5~\mathrm{U.S.C.}~552(a)(1)$ and constitutes a